

**NMSP Sanctuary Advisory Council  
2007 Council Issues and Tasks**

**\*\*Note: All activities subject to change. Please contact site council coordinators for most current information.**

**Channel Islands NMS Council**

**❖ High Priorities:**

- Release of the CINMS Final Management Plan and FEIS
- Marine reserves biological monitoring program oversight and evaluation
- Open ocean aquaculture recommendations for CINMS
- Commenting on a CINMS Supplemental Notice of Proposed Rulemaking/Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement on Large Vessel Graywater Discharge
- Final environmental review process for the consideration of establishing marine reserves/marine conservation areas within CINMS
- Sanctuary advisory council retreat

**❖ Mid-Level Priorities:**

- Offshore oil and gas activities
- Sanctuary education and outreach on fishing within CINMS
- Ocean acoustics (monitoring, vessel tracking, understanding whale behavior studies)
- Marine reserves socio-economic monitoring program oversight and evaluation
- Enhancing education and outreach about existing CINMS marine protected areas
- CINMS Water Quality Program Planning
- Marine debris
- Chumash education and outreach
- Contributing to the 2007 Council Chairs/Coords Annual Meeting

**❖ Lower Priorities:**

- Emerging alternative ocean energy issues
- Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) terminal proposals in local marine waters
- Increase sanctuary education and outreach on MPAs within CINMS
- Understanding the California Marine Life Protection Act
- Bay Watershed Education and Training Grant Program
- Non-native species
- Understanding the California Ocean Protection Council
- Sanctuary-Wide Integrated Monitoring (SWIM)

Note: This list is based on a survey of members taken at the November 2006 advisory council meeting. Additional issue or task items may be added and a reprioritization may occur upon adoption of a completed annual work plan at the council's January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2007 SAC meeting.

### **Cordell Bank NMS Council**

- ❖ **West Coast Fisheries Issues:** West Coast fisheries issues will be addressed with presenters Rod Fujita from Environmental Defense, and Zeke Grader from the Pacific Federation of Fisherman's Associations. The council will begin to explore the topics of heritage port preservation, species impacts on Cordell Bank, and small owner/operator livelihood issues with a focus on Bodega Bay harbors and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary.
- ❖ **Boundary Expansion Bill:** The council will also be updated on the West Coast Sanctuary Boundary Expansion Bill, and offshore oil and gas exploration efforts.
- ❖ **Dispersants in Spill Response:** The Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council will continue to investigate the latest technologies and protocols considering the use of dispersants in spill response. This knowledge base will be utilized to advise sanctuary management on these topics and with any concerns regarding the effects of dispersants on the marine environment in and around Cordell Bank.
- ❖ **Scientific Presentations:** Council meetings will also continue to feature scientific presentations including oceanographic presentations by Jean Largier and Steve Morgan from the Bodega Marine Laboratory, and the biology and migration fluctuations of the Humboldt Squid off the West Coast by Ken Baltz of the National Marine Fisheries Service.

### **Fagatele Bay NMS Council**

- ❖ **Management Plan Review**

### **Florida Keys NMS Council**

- ❖ **Education & Outreach Working Group:** Working with sanctuary staff and the Sanctuary Friends of the Florida Keys, this working group identifies funding opportunities to meet budget shortfalls, identifies long-term goals and projects and sources of funding. This group would like to see a visitor center at the road entrance to the Keys, since those are the folks who do the most damage to resources.

- ❖ **Water Quality Working Group:** This working group, in collaboration with EPA, the South Florida Water Management District (District) and local entities is working to get stormwater and wastewater projects online by 2010, when the Florida Keys, as an Area of Critical State Concern, is mandated to have implemented the Monroe County Management Plan. It to a lesser degree is occupied with non-point source pollution from upstream, particularly floodwater releases by the District, and has much in common with the ecosystem working group.
- ❖ **Ecosystem Restoration Working Group:** This working group is split into two major components: (1) Comprehensive Everglades Restoration and Florida Bay restoration, which is primarily a water quality issue; and (2) coral reef restoration and is linked to The Nature Conservancy's Reef Resilience program, and World Wildlife Fund's LEAD program.
- ❖ **Diadema Restoration:** This is a subset of ecosystem restoration, but is sufficiently novel to merit a title of its own, because it involves actual, physical work -- moving long-spined black sea urchin recruits from the coral rubble zone out onto the patch reefs so that they can survive storm surge and spawn. This has become an overall sanctuary effort, but it started with two council members, and developed at the council.
- ❖ **Zoning:** Since regulatory changes were decoupled from the management plan, they are going to be coming up soon, and will include considering new no-take areas, expanding existing Sanctuary Preservation Areas (SPAs), adding Wildlife Management Areas, and prohibiting trolling for sailfish through existing SPAs.
- ❖ **Spawning Aggregations:** This is a subject that has come up before, but due to reluctance in the past to engage in fishery management, hasn't been handled outside of Riley's Hump in the Tortugas Ecological Reserve. The regional director is working currently with state partners and the two fisheries management councils to devise a way to address this problem for the snapper complex without encroaching on other authorities.
- ❖ **Damage Control/Wildfire Management**

#### **Flower Garden Banks NMS Council**

- ❖ **Management Plan Review** - working groups on priority issues

#### **Gray's Reef NMS Council**

- ❖ **Research Area Concept:** The Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council has been significantly involved in evaluation of the concept of a designated research area in the sanctuary. A working group of the

council was instrumental in recommendations that were adopted by NOAA to proceed with a public process to further examine the concept. The council will carefully observe the process when scoping begins in 2007.

- ❖ **Outreach/Communications on New Regulations:** The Final Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement was released in July 2006. The new regulations are expected to be effective in early 2007. The advisory council will play an important role in helping to disseminate information on new regulations to constituents and the general public.
- ❖ **Performance Evaluation:** The Gray's Reef Final Management Plan contains activities to evaluate performance of the site toward accomplishment of the proposed and ongoing education, outreach, research, exploration and administration strategies. A procedure for evaluating performance will be established that involves the advisory council.
- ❖ **Gray's Reef Condition Report:** A working group of the advisory council is engaged in developing the sanctuary's report on its "condition," a tool to help measure progress toward maintaining or improving resources. The full council will review the report in 2007.
- ❖ **Oceanography Curriculum:** A working group of the advisory council is helping to finalize the Gray's Reef Oceanography Curriculum, which is expected to be completed in 2007.
- ❖ **Marine Debris:** The advisory council and its working groups will be asked to help guide site strategies to address marine debris issues in Gray's Reef.

#### **Gulf of the Farallones NMS Council**

- ❖ Updates will be given before and after the Maverick's Surf Contest on the involvement of the sanctuary in ensuring the safety of wildlife and the protection of the event area. The council will be asked to provide comments and suggestions, and will be given the opportunity to ask questions regarding possible impacts from the event.
- ❖ The council will be updated on the West Coast Sanctuary boundary expansion.
- ❖ The council will be updated on the progress of the Seabird Colony Protection Program by both the program manager and two council members who serve on working groups for this program.
- ❖ The Marine Life Protection Act will be an ongoing topic at every meeting in 2007. The State marine reserve process is considering marine reserves from Pigeon Point to Point Arena. The council will have a designated working

group to ensure stakeholders are informed of the process, the best scientific information is used, and critical habitats are considered.

- ❖ The council will be updated on Tomales Bay water quality and the release of the Vessel Management Plan for Tomales Bay.
- ❖ The council will continue to be involved in the Emergency Response Plan currently being drafted for GFNMS. Updates on the progress of our Vessel Spills Action Plan will be given.

### **Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale NMS Council**

- ❖ **Management Plan Review:** The council will be reviewing documents that will be included in the report to the Governor in September for the 5-year reauthorization of the sanctuary. Meetings will be based upon presentations and discussions regarding the reports on accomplishments of the sanctuary over the past five years, emerging issues, and additional marine resources that could be considered for possible inclusion in the sanctuary.
- ❖ **Site Performance Measures:** The council evaluated the 2006 site performance measures and found that it met all three. The council readopted the same performance measures for 2007 at this year's retreat with the assistance of the retreat facilitator. The 2007 site performance measures are: to have at least 70% attendance for voting members at each meeting; to provide significant input on a minimum of three priority issues as defined in the NMSP Performance Measures for Advisory Councils; and to align the council committees, sanctuary programs, and the NMSP performance measures.
- ❖ **Executive Committee:** The Executive Committee will be meeting regularly to discuss both current and emerging issues, action items from council meetings, and to provide input on the management plan review. The committee will determine the most effective way to include the council's recommendations on reports and documents for the sanctuary 5-year reauthorization.
- ❖ **Education Committee:** The Education Committee has been working with sanctuary staff to identify education and outreach opportunities to reach diverse groups of ocean users. Messages include creating awareness of humpback whales and their habitat in Hawaii and minimizing impacts to the population.
- ❖ **Research Committee:** The Research Committee continues to work in collaboration with the Conservation Committee and the Aquaculture Working Group on threats to humpback whales and their habitat. These threats include vessel-whale collisions, entanglement, harassment, water quality and

addressing research priorities to minimize potential impacts related to habitat displacement from offshore aquaculture. The council and sanctuary staff work to minimize these interactions by focusing their efforts on boater outreach workshops, products, and methods to minimize vessel-whale interactions.

- ❖ **Conservation Committee:** The Conservation Committee and the entire council continue to address concerns related to water quality issues in the sanctuary and have encouraged the development of pump-out at small boat harbors around the state.
- ❖ **Aquaculture Working Group:** The Aquaculture Working Group was established to gather information on offshore aquaculture development in the State of Hawaii and build communication to ensure future developments and have minimal impacts to humpback whales. The group has been establishing liaisons between the council and the aquaculture industry on each of the main Hawaiian Islands.
- ❖ **Budget Needs:** The council has continued to encourage the importance of increased funding for not only the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary, but also the NMSP program as a whole.
- ❖ **SAC Membership:** The council has decided to review the composition of membership (voting and non-voting members) and attendance at council meetings.

#### **Monitor NMS Council**

- ❖ **Role as Liaisons:** Council will continue to communicate and work with their constituency groups to identify needs
- ❖ **Community Outreach and Education**

#### **Monterey Bay NMS Council**

- ❖ **Release of MBNMS Final Management Plan and FEIS**
- ❖ **Outreach/Communications on New Regulations**
- ❖ **Sanctuary advisory Council Retreat**
- ❖ **Updates on next Marine Life Protection Act Study Area (Pt Arena to Pigeon Pt)**
- ❖ **Reauthorization of NMSA**

**Northwestern Hawaiian Islands MNM Council**

❖ TBD

**Olympic Coast NMS Council**

❖ **Monitor and comment as necessary:**

- Aqua Energy wave buoy pilot project
- Coastal geographic response plans (for oil spills) update
- Navy range expansion proposal
- Proposed regulatory changes in acoustic thresholds for marine mammals

❖ **Periodic reports on:**

- Progress on obtaining year-around rescue tug at Neah Bay
- NCOS bioregional reference
- MPA Center Integrated Network project
- Reauthorization of NMSA
- Progress of State Ocean Policy Workgroup recommendations
- Big Eddy project (Joint US/Canada transboundary project)
- Derelict gear project
- Olympic Coast Alliance activities report

❖ **Other Actions/Activities:**

- Endorsement of coastal cleanup
- MPR training and other related activities if the budget permits

**Stellwagen Bank NMS Council**

❖ **Energy Projects**

- Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) Offshore Terminals
- Staff and Council will track status of locally proposed projects

❖ **Increase Understanding of New England Fisheries Management Council**

❖ **Increase Council Partnerships Outreach and Education**

- Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting Constituent Reports

❖ **Management Plan**

- Release of Draft Management Plan
- Council to receive presentation by staff
- Advisory council and working groups comment on DMP/EIA
- Advisory council to assist in raising public awareness and understanding of DMP

❖ **Marine Acoustics**

- Staff to report on SBNMS acoustics research

- ❖ **Sister Sanctuary Initiative**
- ❖ **Maritime Heritage**
- ❖ **Agency Updates and Reports**

**Thunder Bay NMS Council**

- ❖ **Management Plan**
  - Advisory council and working groups work on action plans
  - Integrate working groups into Draft Management Plan
- ❖ **Resource Education:** Continue having presentations at meetings to help the council learn more about Thunder Bay's shipwrecks and resources, as well as other sanctuary issues.
- ❖ **Constituent Reports:** Continue constituent reports to provide a valuable way for council members to stay in touch with the segment of the community they represent and share that information with the balance of the council and the sanctuary staff.